RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 9th July, 2004/18 *Asadha* 1926 (*Saka*)

The House met at eleven of the Clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Protecting Sugar Industry

*61. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government pruned sugar export support for three schemes looking into dwindled stocks and bullish prices in the domestic market; and

(b) if so, the measures Government are taking to protect the sugar industries from incurring losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government have decided not to continue to defray the expenditure incurred on internal transport and freight charges and other permitted reimbursable amounts in respect of export shipments of sugar made after 20th June, 2004, after an assessment of the position with regard to stocks of sugar held by the sugar factories, prospects of sugar production and the requirement of sugar for consumption in the country, domestic and international prices of sugar and other relevant factors. Sugar exports are being undertaken as per the commercial prudence of the sugar factories taking into account the comparative realization from sale in the domestic and international market.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, though the reply by the hon. Minister is very short, it is very vague. Sir, he has given a rosy picture about the sugar industry in the country...(*Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want to ask him?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am coming to it, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't come. Please, come straight. Please, come straight.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the sugar industry is piling up huge stocks. The Government has been giving only a small concession for exporting sugar to the sugar industry, competing in the international market. The only concession which had been given on the freight charges and the transport has now been withdrawn from 20th of June. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how they are able to arrive at that conclusion of withdrawing the concession because still huge stocks are lying there with the sugar industries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take you seat. Your question has come.

डा॰ अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह: सभापति महोदय, सम्मानित सदस्य ने ठीक कहा है लेकिन साथ में यह ध्यान में रखा जाना चाहिए कि सन् 2004 का जो ऐस्टिमेटिड प्रोडक्शन है, वह 140 लाख मीट्रिक टन है, उसको देखते हुए और हमारे देश में जो खपत होनी चाहिए, उसके हिसाब से हम लोगों ने यह फैसला लिया है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you satisfied?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: No, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply at all because when there is a slight increase in the sugar price in the internal market, suddently they say that they will withdraw the concession given to export. That should not be the criteria. It is fluctuating. Therefore, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will revive the concession given to those industries, because, the farmers are the sufferrs.

डा॰ अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह: सभापति महोदय, देश में जो सूखे की स्थिति रही है पिछले साल और इस साल, उसके कारण महाराष्ट्र, आंध्र प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक, जो मेजर केन ग्रोइंग स्टेट्स हैं, उनमें हम लोग जहां 180 लाख मीट्रिक टन की आशा कर रहे थे, इस सूखे के चलते वहां एस्टिमेटिड प्रोडक्शन 140 लाख टन रह गया है और जो कैरी ओवर पिछले साल का किया है,

उसको अगर हम लोग देखकर करते हैं तो आगे के लिए भी हम लोगों को देखना चाहिएं, पूरी पापुलेशन के लिए और उस हिसाब से हम लोगों ने यह फैसला लिया है।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, he is not answering ...(*Interruptions)*.

श्री सभापति: बस, बस, this question is over.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, he is not answering...(*Interruption)*. He is answering only about...(*Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has answered...(*Interruptions)*. Please take your seat...(*Interruptions)* please take your seat...(*Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the competition in international market.....(*Interruptions)*. How are they going to help sugar industry in this country? ...(*Interruptions)*

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the present stock of sugar in the country. The concession which was given earlier, upto 20th of June, has been withdrawn. So, what is the position of sugar stock in the country at this moment of time? They have mentioned a target of one lakh forty thousand metric tons for the year 2004-05. So, at this moment, what is the stock with them and what is the expected stock in the year 2004-05? Why this Concession has been withdrawn? And, before withdrawing the concession, how much export was done?

डा॰ अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह: सभापति महोदय, वर्ष 2004 में टोटल अवेलिबिलिटी 269.14 लाख मीट्रिक टन है जिसमें इंटर्नल कंजम्पशन 180 लाख मीट्रिक टन है और इस साल का ऐस्टीमेटेड प्रोडक्शन 140 लाख मीट्रिक टन है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. K. Malaisamy ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री मोती लाल वोरा: माननीय सभापति महोदय, जो प्रश्न मैंने पूछा है, उसका जवाब तो कम से कम आना चाहिए। यदि अभी उपलब्ध न हो तो मंत्री जी बाद में जवाब भिजवा दें।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है बाद में आ जाएगा।

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the Minister has been very categorical in his statement that the concession has been withdrawn with effect from 20th of June. My specific question is, before doing so, whether due notice was given to the interested parties; how many interested persons have been affected by its withdrawal.

डा॰ अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह: सभापति महोदय, हम लोगों ने 6 महीने पहले इंट्रस्टेड पार्टीज को सूचित कर दिया था कि हम विदड्रॉ करने जा रहे हैं।

New trains in Andhra Pradesh

*62. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the state Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought new trains connecting Secunderabad and Chennai *via* Kurnool, Inter-City Day Express between Secunderabad and Cuddapah and another connecting Vijaywada and Chennai *via* Gunture; and

(b) if so, the action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. A meeting of General Manager, South Central Railway and the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh was held on 27.5.2004. The Chief Minister, *inter alia* asked for introduction of the following trains:

(i) Secunderabad-Chennai *via* Kurnool Town Cuddapah-Renigunta

(ii) Secunderabad-Cuddapah Intercity

However, no train connecting Vijayawada and Chennai *via* Guntur was sought for.

(b) The matter has been examined and introduction of the trains has not been found feasible at present.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, while thanking the Government for not sending the Railway Minister to answer my question since we are opposing him... (*Interruptions*)...

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: वो भी रेलवे मिनिस्टर हैं।

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister-according to him. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a representation to him on 20.5.2004-when the feasibility study was conducted, and what is the report of the Committee upon which the Government has taken a decision.